DD/S&T-2917-66

1 June 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Bross
D/DCI/NIPE

25X1A

25X1A [redacted] 1. I have read with great interest the paper by [redacted] While the experiments are interesting and worthwhile, they appear to me to be more related to the potential attack aspect of indications rather than to the preparation for attack aspect, this latter being, in my view, of more immediate national interest while the former might be considered of priority military interest. The differentiation is not great, however. Another way of saying it is that the inputs to his hypothetical process are really the outputs of our indications work, while his outputs are the judgments which in real life are being made by very senior Government officials (Sec. Defense, the President). Thus, his experiment directly applies to what I would call cabinet-level judgments. The application of his experimental techniques to our indications integration process would very likely prove interesting and useful, but as yet he and we are far from knowing just how useful they might be.

2. There are some difficulties in his or our experimenting with theoretically sound methods; first, simulation of our problems might leave questions as to the applicability to real life, and, second, experimenting with real data would seriously perturb our system, both from a security sense and from a day-to-day operational sense. As you know, my own private theory is that a working system, however theoretically deficient, can only be improved incrementally and in a slow evolution, such changes hopefully leading in the direction of a utopian goal. I do not believe that a major revolutionary change is either desirable or possible.

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3. In spite of the rather negative tone up till now, I think it worthwhile to have [redacted] come and talk to us, primarily to help us define our utopian long range goal, but also to advise as to the best incremental steps toward that goal. Where we arrived in 1966 with respect to satellite photography, collection, processing interpretation and analysis, is probably not the result of a carefully defined goal back in 1960, rather a "growth-like-topsy" process forced by individual and largely uncoordinated actions all along the line. The next five years will see a similar information explosion in our technical capability for observing essentially all of the electromagnetic environment over large geography areas in near real time. How we process, interpret, and analyze this information is a serious problem. These steps are different enough from those [redacted] ith photos (and in fact from those used in the microscopic sampling of today) to deserve considerable study. If [redacted] 25X1A can be convinced that this and other sub-problems are important parts of his "national decision" approach, he could help us.

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4. It might be worthwhile for J.J. Hitchcock and myself to have a preliminary conversation with [redacted] prior to his being invited here.

[redacted]

Chief, Systems Analysis Staff
DD/S&T

Distribution:

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Orig & 1 - Addee
1 - SAS/DD/S&T
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